

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:17 and SEQ ID NO:21, wherein said polypeptide interacts with a receptor protein Ret to trigger dimerization of the receptor protein Ret or autophosphorylation of a tyrosine kinase domain of the receptor protein Ret.
2. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 80% 90% identical to the an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:17 and SEQ ID NO:21.
3. (Previously Presented) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 17 and SEQ ID NO: 21.
4. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:21.
5. (New) The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:17.
6. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.

7. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17.

8. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.

9. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17.

10. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.